

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DOTE-00 IO-14 OMB-01 DODE-00

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UNCLAS TOKYO 4861

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ELAB, JA

SUBJ: LABOR'S SPRING OFFENSIVE - REPORT 9, CONTINUING TRANSPORT STRIKES

REF: TOKYO 4763

SUMMARY: MOST PRIVATE RAILROADS RESUME SERVICE ALTHOUGH FIRM WAGE AGREEMENT NOT YET REACHED. NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL RAILROADS (JNR) ARE PROGRESSING, BUT WORK STOPPAGE CONTINUES. END SUMMARY.

1. LABOR UNIONS OF MAJOR PRIVATE RAILROADS IN TKYO , OSAKA AND NAGOYA, CITING RESOLUTION OF NON PECUNIARY ISSUES, RETURNED TO WORK DURING AM APRIL 12 AND NEAR NORMAL SERVICE NOW RESUMED ON MOST OF THESE LINES. PRECISE WAGE SETTLEMENT STILL IN MEDIATION BUT AGREEMENT EXPECTED SHORTLY.

2. NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND JNR AND OTHER PUBLIC CORPORATIONS HAVE SHOWN PROGRESS BUT STRIKE COUNTINUES. LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (LDP) AND OPPOSITION PARTIES AGREED EVENING APRIL 11 TO BILL WHICH WILL MOVE UP EFFECTIVE DATE OF SPECIAL INFLATION ALLOWANCES FOR PENSIONERS AND THOSE ON WELFARE, THEREBY INCREASING BENEFITS BY ESTIMATED 17 PERCENT. TERMS OF SETTLEMENT ESSENTIALLY REPRESENTED LDP CNCESION, BUT FORM OF SETTLEMENT SUPPORTED RULING PARTY POSITION THAT MATTER SHOULD BE RESOLVED IN UNCLASSIFIED

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POLITICAL ARENA RATHER THAN IN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN GOJ AND

LABOR UNIONS.

3. TWO UNRESOLVED ISSUES REMAIN BETWEEN PUBLIC SECTOR UNIONS AND GOJ: AMOUNT OF WAGE RAISE AND STRIKE RIGHT. WAGE AGREEMENT MUST AWAIT SETTLEMENT BETWEEN PRIVATE RAILROADS AND UNIONS, BUT DISCUSSIONS ARE CONTINUING ON STRIKE RIGHT ISSUE. GOJ HAS OFFERED TO CREATE CABINET LEVEL COMMITTEE TO STUDY

ISSUE, AND TWO SIDES NOW DEBATING MANDATE TO THIS COMMITTEE AND DEADLINE BY WHICH IT MUST ISSUE RECOMMENDATIONS. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE A NUMBER OF DIFFICULT POINTS TO BE RESOLVED, PROSPECTS NOW APPEAR FAIRLY GOOD THAT SOME COMPROMISE WILL BE REACHED THIS EVENING AND THE THREATENED ADDITIONAL WAVE OF JNR STRIKES ON APRIL 15 AND 16 WILL NOT MATERIALIZE.

4. SIDELIGHT ISSUE, BEING REPORTED SETPEL, IS RAID ON OFFICES OF JAPAN TEACHERS' UNION (NIKKYOSO) BY POLICE AFTER TEACHERS THROUGHOUT JAPAN STAYED AWAY FROM JOBS ON APRIL 11. POLICE ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WERE SEARCHING FOR EVIDENCE THAT NIKKYOSO HAD "INSTIGATED" WORK STOPPAGE IN VIOLATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE LAW.

5. PUBLIC REACTING CALMLY TO STRIKE. THERE HAVE BEEN NO INCIDENTS AND LITTLE CONFUSION. MANY WORKERS WERE GIVEN ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE AND STAYED HOME WHILE OTHERS ARE SPENDING NIGHT IN OR NEAR THEIR OFFICES. PERISHABLES AND OTHER DAILY NECESSITIES ARE BEING TRANSPORTED BY TRUCK AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO SERIOUS SHORTAGES IN TOKYO.

6. REFTTEL IS STATUS REPORT 8.
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